

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 00707 01 OF 02 230728Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13 /106 W
-----053423 231251Z /14

R 221400Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7460
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 VALLETTA 0707

USEEC

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FR, IT, MT
SUBJECT: ITALIAN/MALTESE DIALOGUE

1. SUMMARY: ITALIAN AMBASSADOR DA-RIN TELLS US THAT
MINTOFF DISCUSSIONS IN ROME JUNE 16 WENT REASONABLY WELL.
MINTOFF TOLD ITALIANS THAT HE WAS VERY SATISFIED WITH
HIS DISCUSSIONS IN PARIS JUNE 9. ON NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE,
MINTOFF WARNED ANDREOTTI THAT LIBYANS WERE PREPARED TO
GO FURTHER THAN EUROPEANS AND THAT THIS COULD RESULT IN
"IMBALANCE." MINTOFF ALSO PRESSED FOR EARLY ANSWERS ON
ECONOMIC REQUESTS. ANDREOTTI SPOKE OF TAKING THE ISSUE
TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS "SOON" BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS.
DA-RIN SHOWED US COPIES OF DRAFTS OF AGREEMENTS COVERING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 00707 01 OF 02 230728Z

NEUTRALITY AND ECONOMIC AID ASSURANCES WHICH MALTESE
CLAIM LIBYANS ARE PREPARED TO SIGN. END SUMMARY.

2. DA-RIN TELLS US THAT MINTOFF ARRIVED IN ROME FOR
MEETING WITH ANDREOTTI JUNE 16 "GREATLY ENCOURAGED" BY SYM-
PATHETIC HEARING HE PROFESSED TO HAVE RECEIVED IN PARIS DURING
MEETINGS THERE JUNE 9. MINTOFF TOLD ITALIANS THAT

FRENCH WERE PARTICULARLY UNDERSTANDING OVER THE NEED TO EXPEDITE ACTION ON MALTA'S 1979 PROBLEMS AND ALLEGEDLY WERE WILLING TO CONSIDER AN EXTENSION INTO THE DEFENSE AREA OF THE NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE THEY HAVE OFFERED IN PRINCIPLE. MINTOFF APPARENTLY WAS LED TO EXPECT WRITTEN COMMUNICATION FROM FRENCH BY JULY 1 DESCRIBING WHAT FRANCE PREPARED TO DO. THIS WOULD FOLLOW FAIRLY HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH ECONOMIC DELEGATION EXPECTED HERE LATE JUNE. (NOTE: FRENCH AMBASSADOR HERE, NORMALLY UNCOMMUNICATIVE, HAS GIVEN US LITTLE BEYOND OBSERVATION THAT MINTOFF MADE UNUSUALLY EFFECTIVE PRESENTATION DURING MEETING IN PARIS.)

3. DA-RIN DESCRIBED MINTOFF PRESENTATION TO ANDREOTTI AS RAMBLING AND NOT VERY EFFECTIVE. MINTOFF FOCUSED MAINLY ON ECONOMIC REQUIREMENTS BUT REFERRED TO ITALIAN/FRENCH OFFER IN PRINCIPLE ON NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE AS "LIMITED," PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF WHAT LIBYANS PREPARED TO DO. MINTOFF SAID HE UNDERSTOOD DIFFICULTY THAT THIS POSED FOR ITALIANS, NOTING THAT THIS WAS IN ANY EVENT NOT A "BREAKING POINT" IN THE DISCUSSIONS, BUT FELT THAT HE MUST WARN ITALIANS THAT THIS COULD RESULT IN "IMBALANCE" BETWEEN EUROPEAN AND ARAB ASSURANCES.

4. ANDREOTTI'S RESPONSE TO THIS WAS TO RECALL THAT MINTOFF HAD EARLIER EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH MORE GENERAL CONCEPT THAT ITALIANS AND FRENCH HAD OFFERED.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 00707 01 OF 02 230728Z

TO GO BEYOND THIS INTO ANY KIND OF DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WOULD RAISE DIFFICULTIES IN CONTEXT OF ITALY'S OTHER COMMITMENTS AND, ITALIANS ASSUME, WOULD THEREFORE NOT BE WHAT MINTOFF SOUGHT. NONETHELESS GOI WOULD RE-EXAMINE THIS ISSUE, TAKING NOTE AT THE SAME TIME OF WHAT MINTOFF HAD SAID THAT THIS WAS NOT "A BREAKING POINT" IN THE DISCUSSIONS.

5. ON ECONOMIC ASSURANCES, MINTOFF PURPORTEDLY SAID HE WAS NOT GOING TO PRESS ITALIANS TOO HARD BUT NONETHELESS NEEDED ANSWERS BY END OF JUNE. DA-RIN SAID THAT MINTOFF APPEARED TO WANT TO SOFTEN THE IMPACT OF HIS EARLIER REQUEST FOR GUARANTEED SUBSIDIES TO COVER UNEMPLOYED WORKERS BUT STILL SPOKE OF NEED FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO COVER EXAGGERATED UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM RELEASE FROM JOBS WITH BRITISH OF SOME 4300 MALTESE WORKERS. IN SPEAKING OF FINANCIAL SUBSIDY ON DECLINING SCALE 1979 - 1981 TO BRIDGE TRANSITION PERIOD, MINTOFF PUT THIS IN CONTEXT OF UNEMPLOYMENT PICTURE AS WELL BY SAYING THAT CURRENT NATO SUBSIDY GOES IN EFFECT TOTALLY TO PAY FOR BUDGET OF PIONEER AND OTHER WORKERS CORPS. PRESENT ROSTER OF THESE GROUPS,

TOGETHER WITH NUMBER OF WORKERS BRITISH WILL RELEASE
BY 1979, DESCRIBED BY MINTOFF AS ABOUT 12,000 MEN.
THIS WAS THE "ECONOMIC BURDEN" WITH WHICH MALTA WOULD
BE LEFT TO CONTEND WITH IN 1979 AND FOR WHICH HELP WAS NEEDED,
ALTHOUGH HOPEFULLY SOME OF THIS BURDEN WOULD BE REDUCED
BY NEW INVESTMENTS BEFORE 1979.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 VALLET 00707 02 OF 02 231237Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13 /106 W
-----057287 231251Z /42

R 221400Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7461
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 VALLETTA 0707

USEEC

6. DURING DISCUSSIONS WITH ANDREOTTI, MINTOFF GAVE
ITALIANS COPIES OF SEVERAL DOCUMENTS DESCRIBING
WHAT THEY TERMED AS MUCH MORE FORTHCOMING LIBYAN POSTURE.
FIRST OF THESE DOCUMENTS WAS THE AGREED, SIGNED MINUTES
COVERING DISCUSSIONS IN TRIPOLI 27-29 MAY INVOLVING
ATTORNEY GENERAL EDGAR MIZZI, FOREIGN SECRETARY MAURICE
ABELA, AND MDC CHAIRMAN JOE CASSAR ON MALTESE SIDE.
THIS IS SHORT DOCUMENT SIMPLY NOTING THAT LIBYA IS
PREPARED TO SIGN A TREATY GUARANTEEING THE NEUTRALITY,
INDEPENDENCE, AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MALTA AND A
SEPARATE TREATY GUARANTEEING SUPPORT IN PROVIDING THE JOBS

AND RESOURCES NEEDED TO ENSURE MALTA'S ECONOMIC VIABILITY
AFTER 1979.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 VALLET 00707 02 OF 02 231237Z

7. A SECOND DOCUMENT IS A LETTER OF 9 JUNE FROM
LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY TURAYKI TO MINTOFF. THIS LETTER
NOTES THAT LIBYA HAD SIGNED THE ABOVE MINUTES ON THE
UNDERSTANDING THAT MALTA WOULD CONCLUDE SIMILAR AGREEMENTS
WITH OTHERS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA, INCLUDING
ALGERIA, FRANCE AND ITALY. IF SUCH AGREEMENTS WERE
NOT ACCOMPLISHED IN A REASONABLE TIME, LIBYA WOULD
BE READY TO DISCUSS "THE ALTERNATIVE POLITICAL SOLUTION."
(DA-RIN DESCRIBES THE LATTER AS THE LIBYAN FEDERATION
PROPOSAL SUBSEQUENTLY WATERED DOWN BY THE MALTESE SIDE
INTO SOMETHING MORE LIKE A CONFEDERATION.)

8. TWO OTHER DOCUMENTS REPRESENT MALTESE DRAFTS
COVERING THE NEUTRALITY GURANTEE AND ECONOMIC ASPECTS
OF ARRANGEMENTS THAT THE MALTESE CLAIM LIBYA WOULD BE
PREPARED TO SIGN NOW AND THAT WOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE
ACCEPTABLE TO ALGERIA. (DA-RIN IS NOT A T ALL SURE THAT
ALGERIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO GO AS FAR.) THE AGREEMENTS
WOULD BE OF TEN-YEAR DURATION WITH PROVISION FOR AN
AUTOMATIC FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION IF THE PARTIES AGREED.
THAT COVERING THE NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE WOULD HAVE LIBYA
(AND ALGERIA) UNDERTAKING TO DEFEND MALTA, WHENEVER CALLED
UPON TO DO SO BY THE MALTESE, AGAINST ANY VIOLATION OR
THREAT OF VIOLATION OF THE NEUTRALITY, INDEPENDENCE AND
TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF MALTA. THE AGREEMENT WOULD GO
ON TO INCLUDE AN UNDERTAKING BY LIBYA (AND ALGERIA) TO
ASSIST MALTA TO TRAIN, EQUIP AND MAINTAIN ARMED FORCES FOR
ITS OWN DEFENSE. IN TURN MALTA WOULD PROVIDE THE ASSURANCES
THAT ITS TERRITORY WOULD NOT BE USED FOR MILITARY
PURPOSES EXCEPT FOR ITS OWN DEFENSE AND WOULD NOT
PROVIDE FACILITIES FOR ANY FOREIGN MILITARY BASE.
A MIXED COMMISSION WOULD BE FORMED TO SUPERVISE IMPLEMENTATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 VALLET 00707 02 OF 02 231237Z

OF THESE ASSURANCES.

9. THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE LIBYA (AND ALGERIA)
AGREE JOINTLY TO PAY A SUBSIDY OF 30 MILLION DOLLARS
TO COVER THE 1979-81 TRANSITION PERIOD ON A DECLINING
15-10-5 ANNUAL BASIS. THE ASSURANCE WOULD EXTEND TO PROVIDING
AN ADDITIONAL 3,000 DOLLARS DURING THIS TRANSITION PERIOD

FOR EACH OF THE JOBS REQUIRED TO MAINTAIN MALTA'S ECONOMIC VIABILITY. THESE ECONOMIC ASSURANCES WOULD BE COVERED BY A "PLAN OF COOPERATION" TO BE DEVELOPED AMONG THE THREE COUNTRIES WITH A MONITORING COMMITTEE TO SUPERVISE IMPLEMENTATION.

10. ACCORDING TO DA-RIN, ANDREOTTI SCANNED THESE DOCUMENTS BUT LIMITED HIS RESPONSE TO NOTING THE EXTENT TO WHICH ITALY IS ALREADY OFFERING TO HELP, INCLUDING THE DISPATCH OF AN ECONOMIC MISSION EXPECTED HERE IN EARLY JULY. AS FOR THE 1979-81 AID CONCEPT, ANDREOTTI SIMPLY OBSERVED THAT THE GOI WAS PREPARED IN PRINCIPLE TO EXAMINE THE CONCEPT AND TO CONSIDER SOME KIND OF SUPPORT. THIS HAD NOT YET BEEN DISCUSSED IN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS BUT WOULD BE "SOON" BUT ONLY IN THE CONTEXT OF A COORDINATED "WESTERN" EFFORT.

11. WE WILL BE REPORTING DA-RIN'S OWN COMMENTS ABOUT ALL THIS AND OUR OWN ASSESSMENT SEPTTEL. LAINGEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 22-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VALLET00707
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770224-0777
Format: TEL
From: VALLETTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770629/aaaaazfg.tel
Line Count: 243
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0f686078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2062956
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ITALIAN/MALTESE DIALOGUE
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, FR, IT, MT, (ANDREOTTI, GIULIO), (MINTOFF, DOMINIC)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0f686078-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009